

Legislation Includes Braley Menu Labeling Provision

Washington, DC – Congressman Braley applauded the signing today of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act into law. This legislation, which reauthorizes Child Nutrition Programs, included a provision authored by Rep. Braley for schools to use menu labeling as a way for children to make healthy food choices.

“It is vitally important that we explore new and creative ways to educate children about the need to make healthy food choices,” Braley said. “While Iowa has one of the lowest childhood obesity rates in the nation, the rates of childhood obesity, diabetes, and other nutrition-related problems across the nation are disturbingly high.”

In May 2009, Rep. Braley introduced the Healthy Food Choices for Kids Act. This legislation set up a voluntary pilot program for schools to use menu labeling in school cafeterias as a way to encourage students to make healthy food choices. The legislation signed into law today included a Braley provision to establish demonstration projects for schools and child care programs to use labeling as a way to encourage children to make healthy food choices. The demonstration projects were included within a larger grant program to promote the selection and consumption of healthy foods amongst children. Rep. Braley worked with Senator Harkin to include this provision in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.